Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

Region: Texas

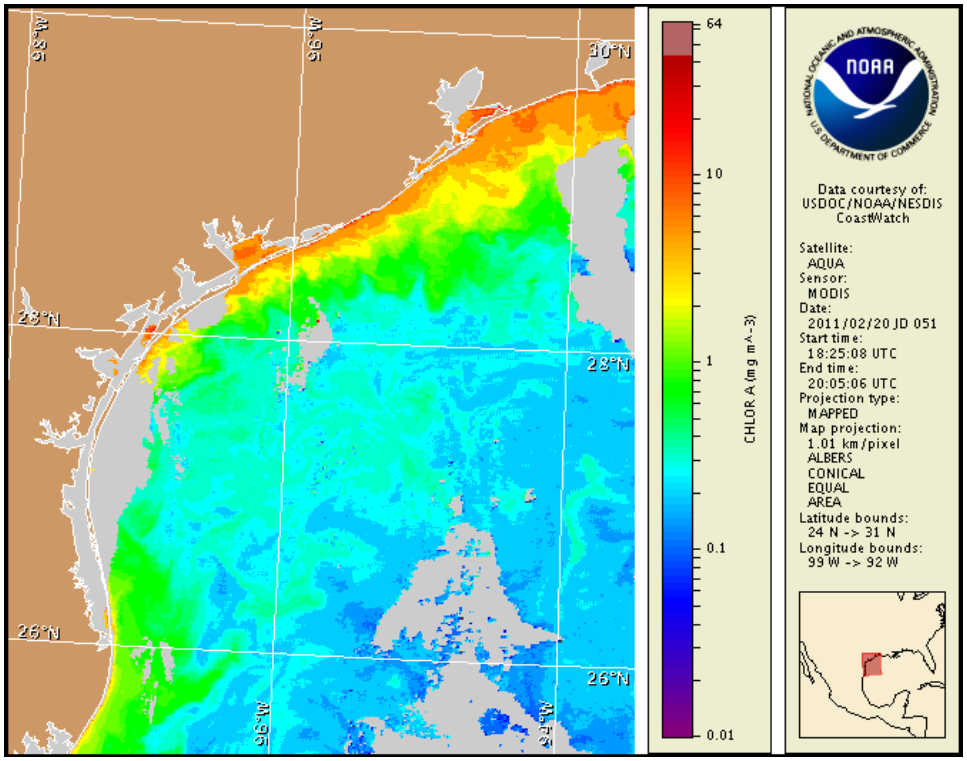
22 February 2011

NOAA Ocean Service

NOAA Satellites and Information Service

NOAA National Weather Service

Last bulletin: February 14, 2011



Satellite chlorophyll image with possible HAB areas shown by red polygon(s). Cell concentration sampling data from February 14 to 21 shown as red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue(very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). For a list of cell count data providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HABFS bulletin guide:

http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/habfs_bulletin_guide.pdf

Please note the following restrictions on all SeaWiFS imagery derived from CoastWatch.

1. Data are restricted to civil marine applications only; i.e. federal, state, and local government use/distribution is permitted.
2. Image products may be published in newspapers. Any other publishing arrangements must receive GeoEye approval via the CoastWatch Program.

Conditions Report

There is currently no indication of a harmful algal bloom at the coast in Texas. No impacts are expected alongshore Texas today through Sunday, February 27.

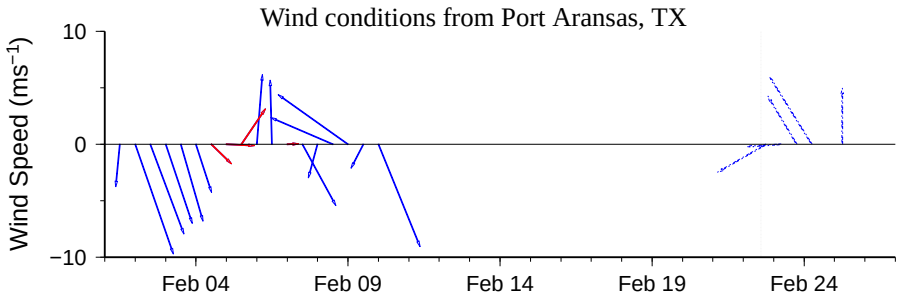
Analysis

There is currently no indication of a harmful algal bloom along the coast of Texas.

The SeaWiFS ocean color sensor mission has ended. SeaWiFS imagery will no longer be available for chlorophyll analysis. MODIS Aqua is displayed on this bulletin and will be used as the primary source of ocean color imagery for bloom analysis in future bulletins. Recent imagery is partially obscured by clouds along the coast, south of the Matagorda Bay region. Elevated chlorophyll is visible along- and offshore from Sabine Pass to Port Aransas (2 to 10 μg/L). Elevated chlorophyll seems to be due to the resuspension of benthic chlorophyll and sediments and is most likely not related to a harmful algal bloom.

Forecast models indicate a potential maximum transport of 20 km south along the coast from Port Aransas from February 20 to 25.

Kavanaugh, Derner

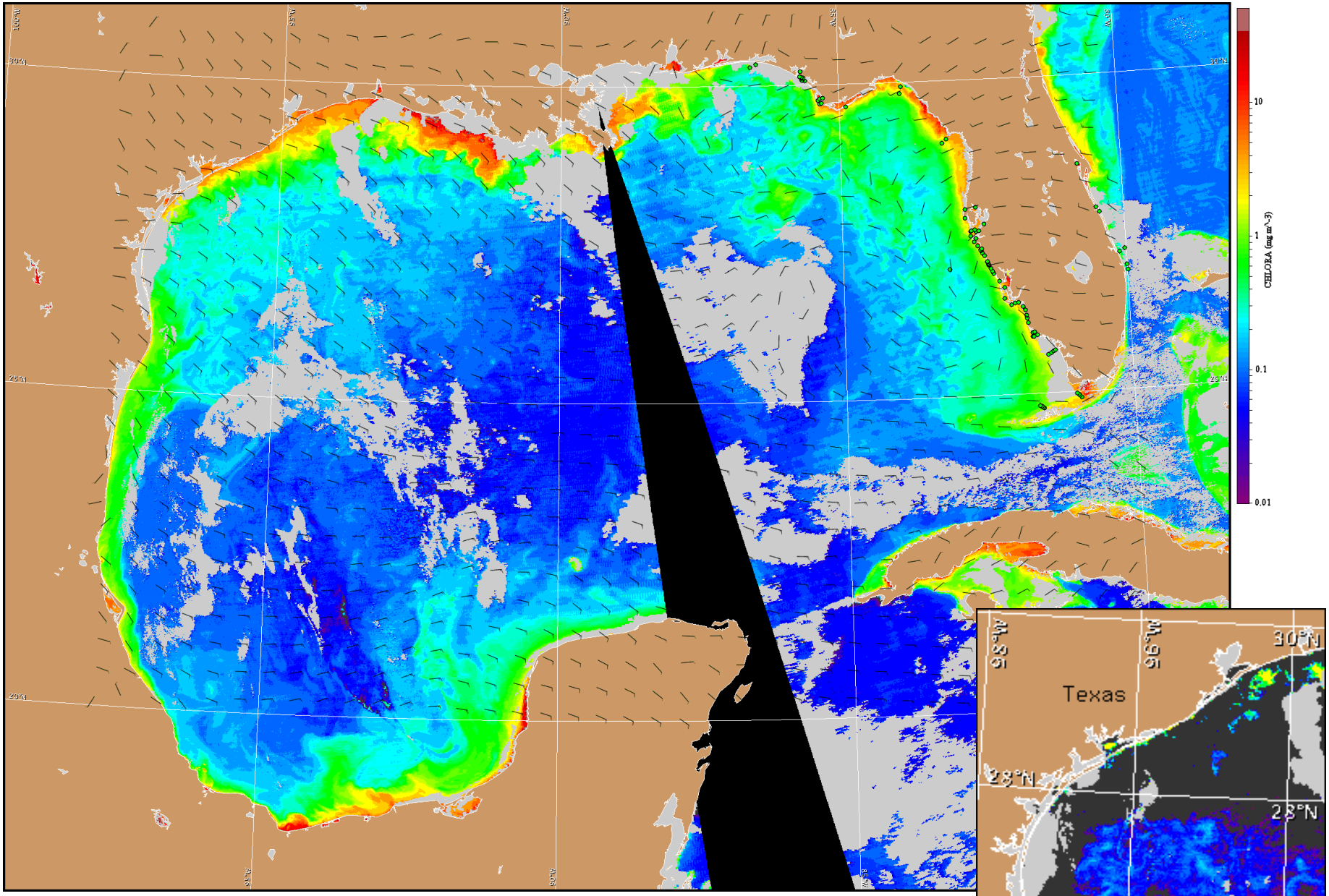


Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from buoy measurements. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts. Wind observation and forecast data provided by NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS).

Wind Analysis

Northeast winds (5-15 kn, 3-8 m/s) today becoming east winds (5-15 kn) tonight. Southeast winds (5-15 kn) Wednesday becoming south winds Thursday. North winds (5-10 kn, 3-5 m/s) Friday shifting southeast (5-20 kn, 3-10 m/s) through Saturday.

To see previous bulletins and forecasts for other Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin regions, visit the NOAA Harmful Algal Bloom Operational Forecast System bulletin archive: http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/bulletins.html



Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for February 23, 2011 06Z with Cell concentration sampling data from February 14 to 21 shown as red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue(very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). For a list of cell count data providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HABFS bulletin guide:
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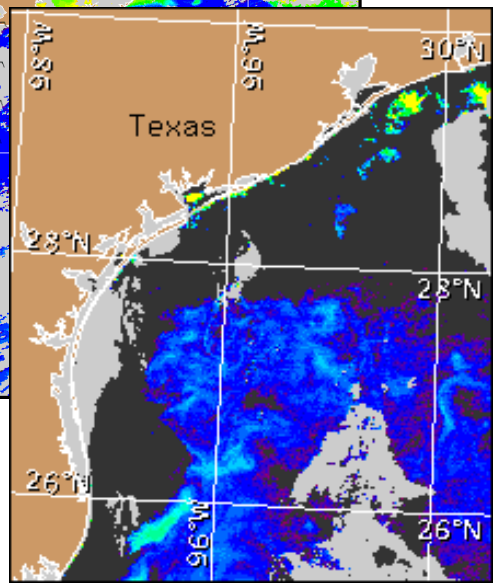

Verified and suspected HAB areas shown in red. Other areas of high chlorophyll concentration shown in yellow (see p. 1 analysis for interpretation).